HIS VIEWS OF THEM.

LEGISLATOR DISCUSSES FOUR MEM-BERS OF THE HOUSE.

RETRENCHER WHO DID NOT DIE,

Captain Featherston and His Efforts in Behalf of Economy-Matthews and His Muskent Bill-Churchman's Backbone-Settle a Handsome Man.

"Jordan is a hard road to travel."

This was the old song. The new song Economy, retrenchment, and reform is the hardest road that mon have ever tried to travel." No man could make the trip with a backbone less than six

I am told by people here who are more or less familiar with every session of the egislature since the war that no better rorkers have been in the State's employ. This Legislature has had a most difficult task to perform-a task akin to that of the ancient Hebrews-to make the tile of brick without the straw; to meet inad expenses with decreased revenues. They have done some pruning. Nobody reed to be told why they did not do more. On the 18th of February I notice the statement of Mr. Brenaman, Clerk of the Fi-



APTAIN J. C. FEATHERSTON. nance Committee of the House, that that committee had done to that date more work than has ever been recorded of

known the chairman of that mmittee to call three meetings in one yy-I mean a day of twenty-four hours, tried to do my duty by being in attend-age at all times, but found it impossible. And while I am aware that Mr. Speaker, without detriment to his usefulness, could have forgotten more than I will ever know about it, yet, if he will pardon me, I would suggest, when he appoints another Finance Committee, if a Cocke is to be its chairman, that he does not put its members upon any other committee. Leaving out Willard, who has aloney to burn, but too much sense to do it, I think yery man of that committee has made I am aware that Mr. Speaker, ern, but too much sense to by I take very man of that committee has made great deal more money with a great eal less work. The members of that ommittee, like the members of other mittees, had other duties to perform, and the reason I regret that I could not always be present was not because of any capacity to teach, but because I was capa-ble of learning, and it is a place of in-formation, and if you failed to get it, it was alone due to the fact that you did not possess the powers of absorption.

This Legislature has worked hard; has worked in the interest of the people, and will be approved by the people. It has been honest and faithful in its work; it has done what it could, and I believe it has started forever to work that which in the end will increase our rave. nues and decrease our expenses, until a point is reached satisfactory to the whole people. And that seems to be the great problem to-day that confronts the orld and its government, and man in

world and its government, and has his individual capacity.
There has never been such searching investigation; there has never been greater effort, and there has seldom been better result. Of course, every man will not find his individual ideas carried out, and most probably there are but few members who have not changed some opinions entartained ninety days ago. The man who is tertained ninety days ago. The man who is incapable of changing an opinion, is the man incapable of forming one. But we must change the Constitution.

One of the very best and most timely

One of the very best and most timely editorials that I have seen in years was in the Disputch soon after the assembling of the Legislature. Among other things, was this: "Retrenchers die early." The writer of that editorial knew he stood on solid ground; he knew the history of the past; he knew the promises that had been broken; he knew that men who had come, gone, and been forgotten—he knew it all save one thing, and he was right in all save one thing—he did not know the men and just how they would vote in the session of '97-'98. Aside from such able men as Parks, Saunders, Parker, and a dozen as Parks, Saunders, Parker, and a dozen others, the great number are but pain etitizens, the equals of whom you find by the hundreds in each and every county in the State. Why are these plain men here? I'll tell you why. The people said:
"We have tried our brilliant men, and we
are not satisfied. Now, we will try our
plain men, who have done something for



HON. J. W. CHURCHMAN. themselves, and we will see if they will

themselves, and we will see if they will not do something for us." That is why-exactly why.

I repeat it, the plain men, the unpurchaseable men, the men without training in the art of legislation, with the aid of the able leaders we have here, have done effective work for the State.

Will not the Dispatch do them the Justice to say that there are retrenchers that have not died early? They have fought the fight, kept the faith, and at the close of the session will, perhaps, have 10 per capita and the stub-end of a free pass.

Retrenchment is no new subject to the pentleman whose picture accompanies this sketch-Captain J. C. Featherston, this sketch—Captain J. C. Featherston, of Campbell county. He has talked retreachment, worked and voted for retreachment, years before he came here as Katy said to Zeke. 'It's no rarity to me.' That he has stood firm, faithful, and true to his people is just what they knew he would do. They had his measurement as recorded in acts done in their behalf, as though by the vote he reknew he would do. They had his meanurement as recorded in acts done in their
behalf, as shown by the vote he received away up in the hundreds alread

of his ticket. If you care to know how a delegate stands with his people, who know him better than you, be you ever so wise, can possibly know him in a brief ninety days, I'll tell you how you can do it. Compare that delegate's vote with the rest of the ticket. That will tell the tale.

No man here received a more flattering endorsation from his people, and none more deserved it. Captain Featherston is a big. manly, fine-looking fellow, broad-chested and big-hearted. If he knows you to-day he will know you to-



DELEGATE S. WILKINS MATTHEWS morrow. He does not belong to the yellow-dog type of gentleman, whose recog-nition depends upon their whims or dys-pepsia. Captain Featherston is easily one of the best and safest men here. He is a man of ability, a gentleman away from home as well as at home. Whenever he does anything mean, let me know. I'll tell his people; but they will never believe it. But I will tell them one thing they will believe-he has a seven-inch

My friend and brother in the rural districts, in your honesty and innocence, it is true, you have not a full conception of the difficulties of the situation. If you were a Confederate, let me briefly tell you this story. There is a member of the this story: There is a member of the House whose desk is immediately in front of mine, whose name I need not mentiona strong man-and from that strong man's eyes I saw drop the burning tear when an old comrade appealed to him to vote against the proposition to abolish his office. I had seen this man making the appeal-a captain of cavalry, as brave the appeal—a captain of cavalry, as brave as any Murat or Ney was brave—yonder at Spotsylvania Courthouse, reddened with his own blood, as he stood facing the enemy in that fight, in which the cavalry had orders to hold in check the whole Fifth Army Corps, for half an hour, if possible, but for fifteen minutes, though, it cost the life of the lest Confederate in t cost the life of the last Confederate in

Why was such an order given? Because Why was such an order given? Because
Lee's troops were moving from the direction of Orange Courthouse to take line
on the Old Plank read, and unless those
Federal troops were kept back, Lee's line
of battle would have been lost. The head
of Grant's column had already struck the
Old Brock road, and that must be closed,
lee he had a conen highway to Richelse he had an open highway to Richmond. That cavalry held the line. If you doubt the wording of the order or the facts, ask Colonel Whitehead (then a captain of cavalry), the man standing in the forefront of that fight; the Uriah that king David (the Lorigicature) come pro-King David (the Legislature) now pro-

poses to put out of the way.

Dear Captain, 'tis here we pass the Rubicon. I find the task too hard for me; the cup more than I can drink. I shall vote as cheerfully as any one to lessen the salary of the Confederate, but I hate to see them go. Elsewhere I join you and can stand by you, and here we do not part. I give your own words: "I remember the boys at home, and I intend to stand by them." stand by them."

Here is the best fellow you ever saw-S. W. Matthews, of Accomac. It was sald of Generals Wheeler, of Alabama, and Bragg, of Wisconsin, by some member of Congress, that the first-named was continuously looking for some one to be-friend, and the latter looking for some Matthews is like General Joe Wheeler, of Matthews is like General Joe wheeler, of Alabama-big and noble-hearted; not a streak of good and bad, but good all the way through. My faith in Matthews is such that I would underwrite him for every dollar I possess. Matthews will never do a mean act. I first noticed him in the very beginning of the session, when never do a mean act. I first noticed him in the very beginning of the session, when he presented a bill for the protection and propagation of muskrats. I said to my deskmate, "What do you reckon is the matter with that fellow." We watched the circus for a few days over the muskrat bill, and in the mean time I made the acquaintance of another good fellow—Jones, of Isle of Wight. I asked him if that muskrat man was in earnest, or was he funning about this muskrat. or was he funning about this muskrat business. Jones explained it, and introduced me to Matthews, and it wasn't long before the scales fell from my eyes.

before the scales fell from my eyes.

Maybe you think 'coon, o'possum, quall,
on toast, canvas-back duck, sora, pheasant, turkey, spring chicken, or some of
them, are good. Well they are, but when
you want something first-class you want
to get you a baked muskrat, then you
have got a dish good enough for a king.
You don't believe it, you say? Well, I You don't believe it, you say? Well, I didn't either, but if you had been up here at Marphy's, where we had twenty muskrats for dinner, you would have changed your mind. Good? I would say they

Everybody has heard of the two hungry negroes coming in from the field where they had been plowing corn, the sun scorohing hot, and the negroes astraddle their mules. One said to the other: "I wish I had 'er baked 'possum for dinner." The other said: "I wish I had 'er baked 'possum fried in 'coon-stayy, and ner." The other said: "I wish I had 'er baked 'possum fried in 'coon-gravy, and fenced in with sweet 'taters." The first darky said: "Look here, nigger, you say that thing again, and I will fall off dis yere mule and die rite here in the road."

Now gentlemen, if you had been to that Now, gentlemen, if you had been to that muskrat feast at Murphy's, and the next

muskrat feast at Murphy's, and the next time you were hungry some one would mention baked muskrat for dinner, you would feel very much the same way as the nigger on the mule.

Did you ever think of it? It took man 6.000 years to learn how to cut his shirt. Yes, for 6.000 years he cut it wrong. He cut it in front instead of behind. Who would have a shirt that opened in the front? I mean a man's shirt. We all used to wear them made that way. Why? Because we didn't know any better. Now Because we didn't know any better. Now we all wear them the other way because we do know better. Same way about

we do know beter. Same to muskrats, gentiemen.

You want to know what the flesh is like If no one told you what the dish was that was set before you, you would come to about this conclusion—that it was the best and biggest squirrels you ever saw. It is much more tender and better flavored than squirrel. The muskrat is not fat like the opossum, but red meat, like a squirrel or rabbit.

The difference between muskrat and squirrel is the difference between a steak from a four-year-old, first-class steer, and one from a pennyroyal bull—the kind they raise in Bedford and Franklin counties. However, they seem to make up in muskrats, gentlemen.

they raise in Bedford and Frankin counties. However, they seem to make up in men what they lose in beef.

You would expect to find the taint of musk about it. It is entirely free from it. You would find no objection to muskrat, except your prejudice.

It was a very wise man who said: "Give me the prejudice of the average man, and you may have his reason." Matthews, I shail never forget your kind invitation to Murphy's Hotel to the muskrat dinner. It was a red-letter day in my life. Ryan sat at the head of the table, and Murphy, one of Richmond's best representatives, sat at the foot. Jordan, of Frederick, a big-headed, solid, smart, Scotch-Irishman, smart as a steel-trap—that fellow Jordan—he was the only man in the party who wouldn't venture.

them to whatever place they go after they are dead.

Matthews, the muskrat man, has travelled the Pacific Slope. He has been a cowboy, a miner, a clerk, a merchant; has lived in Ossamattomic, Kan. (the home of John Brown), has mined and merchandised in the Rocky Mountains; has had his pockets filled with money, and has worked for his board—has been both on top and bottom.

has worked for his hoard—has been both on top and bottom.

These are his words: "I have been biessed in a thousand ways more than I deserve. I represent the best people in the world, and am worried because I cannot do more for them." He made, to my knowledge, a most effective fight for Blackstone. I know what I am talking about when I say Matthews got votes for Blackstone that no other man could have gotten for him. Well, good people of Accomac, if you are all like your representative here, I should not be surprised to hear that some day some of you, like Elijah of old, will be carried up in a chariot of fire.

Matthews, I may never meet you again,

Matthews, I may never meet you again, but I shall never forget you, and in all the sincerity of my heart I say, God bless

Here is my friend and deskmate, Bill Here is my friend and deskmate, Bill Churchman, of Augusta. He is like everything from Augusta-big, broad, and of florid complexion. So far as I am competent to judge, if this Lexislature is weak in anything, it is backbone; but Churchman is not suffering in that way. He is as tenacious of his opinions and as old Nick himself, with an extra pair of horns, couldn't turn him from the way he is going. Churchman has had a time with two bills. He had a fence bill he thought would fill a long-felt want, but he couldn't make the fence high enough for Gwyn and the big cattlemen from the Southwest; nor could he get it low enough



MR. SETTLE, OF RAPPAHANNOCK. for the feliows from the pine and hoop-pole districts. He did \$300 worth of work pole districts. He did \$300 worth of work on that fence, and now there ain't any more fence than there was when he started. Then, he had a bill subjecting to attachment a man's wages for supplies furnished to his family. He believed it best for the laborer; he believes if you make a man pay his debts he will be honest; if you continue to broaden and lengthen the laws enabling men to evade the payment of their obligations, that so the payment of their obligations, that so-ciety will become corrupt. Well, what became of that bill? One hundred and twenty-three amendments were made to it, and finally it read that if A owed B \$50, and attempted to collect it, that the court should be compelled to give a judg-ment for the \$50 be owed B. It is needless to say the gentleman from Augusta withdrew the bill.

This House is well furnished with strong, skilful, and able leaders. Some of the best men in the State are here—such men as Parks, Pilcher, Parker, Diggs, Saunders, Willard, and others, including, always, the "Watch-Dog of the Treasury," the gentleman by the sea, the sound and the safe man from Norfolk. But the difficulties were great, the pressure strong, the officers numerous, influential, and thoroughly imbued with the idea that the places they held belong to them, and any interference with them in reduction of salary or otherwise was something the representatives of the peosomething the representatives of the peo-ple had no business with. The peo-ple think differently, and certainly their views are entitled to some consideration. Unfortunately, however, about the only time the wishes of the people are consulta-ed is just previous to an election. There will be another election by and by, and if some people lived to be as old as Old Man Methusela, they wouldn't have time enough to explain to their constituents.
This will not apply to Churchman. He has voted to cut everybody's salary, and reduce all appropriations outside of Augusta. He believes the State is Augusta. gusta. He beneves the State is Augusta, and Augusta the State; it is a more important part of it than even the people of Augusta realize. Do you people of Augusta know that thirty of the one hundred counties in the State drew last year gusta know that thirty of the one nundred counties in the State drew last year over \$22,000 from the treasury, and that there are a dozen more that do not pay as much as \$1,000 each into the treasury, and ten more that do not pay as much as \$2,000 each? Now, make your calculation, and you can see that Churchman is nearer right than most people would have thought. Here you have fifty counties (half of the whole number); Augusta pays over \$32,000 to State revenues. Make your calculation, and you will see Augusta is worth very much more than these fifty counties. Figures never lie; neither is the man lying who makes these figures. Grand old Augusta—everything from there is big, broad, and of florid complexion. You see, she has the right complexion. You see, she has the right Settle, of Rappahannock, is clearly one

of the best, safest, and soundest young men in the House, and if you would want settle, of Rappanamous of the best, safest, and soundest young men in the House, and if you would want to give me an even swap for one-half of the old ones there wouldn't be any trade made, for I teli you, plainly, Settle wild do. I may call him a farmer's boy, although he has a legal education, and I have been told has served some years as a local magistrate. So look at his youthful face, coal-black hair, and healthy, country make-up; you'll say he's a fine specimen of the honest, sturdy countryman. He is a farmer, and represents the farmer; he standeth for him and abideth with him. He is for the sower and the reaper; the worker from early morn to dewy eve. He has proved his faith by his works, his sympathies by his votes; for he has voted for the farming interests from the beginning to the close of the session. He is a Democrat, for years chairman of his County Committee, and, if as watchful and zealous of his party's interest as chairman, as he has been of the interests of his constituents during the last ninety days, he was unquestionably a good county chairman. Taken all in all, few counties have had any better representative, and none are better looking. He is a very pleasant speaker. I heard him make two speeches that would have been creditable to any member here. Of course, there are some very strong men here, who stand by

speaker. I heard him make two speeches that would have been creditable to any member here. Of course, there are some very strong men here, who stand by themselves; men who would well compare with most of the men, and far outrank a majority of the men in the lower house of Congress—such men as Parks, Saunders, Pilcher, Parker, Diggs, Watkins, and a dozen more I could easily mention—but I will mention Willard, who will go to Congress; if not, he ought to.

There is one thing down here I can't understand, Settle; it is what they call the calendar. I don't believe anybody knows much about it, except the Clerk, Colonel John Bell Bigger. You members all know how he does. He hops on that calendar like the "snowbird on the ashbank." No. 236, he calls; then he hops a dozen pages and sings out, 647. I wonder if they will ever find another old man like that. What do you think about it, Settle? John Bell Bigger is now the only man living who knows anything about the calendar; the man who invented the calendar is dead. I would sooner bet my money on the card that comes up next than to bet on what that grand old man is going to take ap next out of the calendar. Settle, between you and me, I won't say durn the calendar; but if Solomon were here, he wouldn't understand the calendar.

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INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

[PUBLISHED ET AUTHORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.]

GEORGIA HOME INSURANCE COMPANY.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 11st, 1877, CF
THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE GEORGIA HOME INSURANCE
COMPANY, OF COLUMBUS, GA., ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF
THE STATE OF GEORGIA, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO
THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.
President—J. RHODES BROWNE.
Secretary—WILLIAM C. COART.
General Agent in Virginis—JOHN H. MONTAGUE; residence, Richmond, Va.
Organized or Incorporated—1858.
Commenced Business—1859.
L.—CAPITAL.

United States Registered 4 per cent. bonds
Muscogee Manufacturing Company bonds
Virginia State bonds
Atlanta Chamber of Commerce bonds
Atlanta Chamber of Commerce bonds
Chappell Female College bonds
Troy (Ala.) bonds
Macon Volunteers' Armory bonds
Clegg Manufacturing Company bonds
Swift Manufacturing Company bonds
Muscogee Club bonds
N. Y. Economical Printing (o. bonds
Lynchburg (Va.) bonds
Natemal Bank of Columbus stock
Tallassee Falls Manufacturing stock
Chattahoochee Falls Company
Muscogee Manufacturing Company
Georgia Home Insurance Company
Swift Manufacturing Company
Columbus Ice and Refrigerator Company
N. Y. Economical Printing Company
Columbus Savings and Loan Association.
City Mills Company
Columbus and Gulf Railroad Company
Frazier Hardware Company
Total par and market value (carried

Total par and market value (carried

Georgia Home stock
National Bank of Columbus and North
Highland Land Company
Rent notes
Personal security

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ALL ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, STATED AT THEIR ACTUAL VALUE III.-LIABILITIES.

Net amount of unpaid losses

Gross premuims received and receivable upon all unexpired fire
grisks; running one year or less from date of policy, including
risks; running one year or less from date of policy, including
interest premiums (on perpetual fire risks, \$158,767.96; unearned premiums (op per cent.)
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired fire
grisks, running more than one year from date of policy,
122,104.79
\$242,273.90; unearned premiums (pro rata).

Total unearned premiums, as computed above (carried out)

Cash dividends to stockholders remaining unpaid

Borrowed money on deposit, drawing intrest at 4 per cent.

Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and net surplus...\$ 454,248 to 300,000 to 300 AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ALL LIABILITIES, INCLUDING PAID-UP CAPITAL STOCK AND NET SURPLUS

IV.-RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

Net cash actually received for premiums (carried out)

Net cash actually received for premiums (carried out)

Received for interest on riorigages

Received for interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans,
and from all other sources

Income received from all other sources—viz., rents

Gross amount actually paid for losses (including \$27.848.11, losses occurring in previous years) 5192,076 22
Deduct all amounts actually received for salvage (whether on losses of the last or of previous years, and all amounts actually received for reinsurance in other companies. Total deduction 23,530 18

Net amount paid during the year for losses

Cash dividends actually paid stockholders.

Paid for commission or brokerage
Paid for salaries, fees, and all other charges of officers, clerks, agents, and all other employees
and all other employees
Paid for State and local taxes in this and other States
All other payments and expenditur's

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS DURING
THE YEAR, IN CASH
BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING THE YEAR:
EVER BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING THE YEAR:

Risks written \$2.081,70
Premiums received (gross) 7.40
Losses paid A 5.45
Losses incurred (Signed) J. RHODES BROWNE, President.

Seal of the Corporation. state of Georgia, city of Columbus—ss.:

Sworn to February 5, 1898, before

WILLIAM C. COART, Secretary.

J. O. M'NULTY, Notary Public.

MONTAGUE & CO., Agents,

No. 5 North Tenth Street,

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING NEATLY EXECUTED AT THE DISPATOR